

**From:** Ryan Watson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:29pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I have been involved in the computer industry since 1977, and I can tell you from experience that you could kill Microsoft all together and not significantly hurt the computer industry, there are enough standards out there that people would do just fine. I would also state that Microsoft does indeed have competition, and that if they weren't a monopoly they would have choked by now because they're not particularly careful programmers. They're built on speed.

None of that matters though, because the real issue at hand is whether or not they broke the law, US courts have held that they did. Therefore they do deserve a fitting penalty. I am sure that the proposal you have put forward as the final settlement is going to have no lasting effect on their conduct. I can't say that I have the answer to the problem, but I know for sure that this is not the correct course of action. Please consider your actions carefully, and realize that whatever happens here and now WILL have a significantly lasting effect on the computer industry as a whole. I would also say that virtually anyone who knows economics could tell you that if you have a product that sells for a high price, and one that is free, in any other industry the free item would be virtually dominant. In this case you have several very good free and well written competitive products, that are not able to make a significant hold in the desktop OS market. Please please consider carefully what you do.

Ryan